

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-090-C - ORDER NO. 97-237
MARCH 25, 1997

IN RE: Petition of South Carolina Public)	ORDER
Communications Association for Review)	DENYING
of LEC Tariffs for Basic Payphone)	PETITION
Services)	IN PART

The South Carolina Public Communications Association (SCPCA) petitioned the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) to review local exchange company (LEC) tariffs for basic payphone services, as required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in CC Docket No. 96-128, and to require revisions to those tariffs, as necessary, so that they comply with the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). SCPCA also moves for an Order consolidating into this proceeding all pending tariff revisions that have been filed by LECs in response to orders issued by the FCC in CC Docket No. 96-128.

In response to the Petition, counsel for the South Carolina Telephone Coalition (SCTC) states that SCTC is in the process of preparing a generic Public Telephone Access Service (PTAS) tariff that will bring all companies into compliance with the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the FCC's First Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-128 addressing payphone provisions of the Act. According to SCTC, the individual companies plan to file these tariffs no later than


April 1, to be effective April 15, 1997. As for rates that SCTC companies are currently charging independent payphone providers, SCTC companies filed individual company tariffs on March 14, 1997, freezing those rates at current levels, as directed by the Commission in Order No. 96-882. SCTC states that it fully anticipates that a hearing will be necessary to address the appropriate rates for such service. However, SCTC does not believe that this hearing is required before April 15, 1997. SCTC proposes that such a hearing should be held prior to October, 1997, when payphone competition will be fully implemented. In the meantime, according to SCTC, these rates will be frozen at current levels, which the Commission has determined are appropriate and reasonable. SCTC requests that the Commission deny the SCPCA Petition.

We have considered this matter, and agree with SCTC. We believe that the SCPCA Petition should be denied, for the reasons stated in the response of SCTC. However, Staff is instructed to combine the GTE/Contel payphone tariff filings into one Docket for hearing purposes. Payphone tariffs on file by United, Alltel, and BellSouth are to be handled in separate proceedings. LECs will utilize the payphone tariffs on file with the Commission for pricing, subject to a true-up by the Commission upon completion of the hearing process as contemplated.

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This Order shall remain in full force and effect until
further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Deputy
Executive Director
(SEAL)